ASTR 400/500: ASTRONOMY SEMINAR SERIES, SPRING 2015

Instructor: Dr. Christopher Johns-Krull, HBH 352, x3531

Location: Meets in HBH 227, Wednesdays from 12:05 pm to 12:55 pm

Course Description: ASTR 400 (undergraduate) and ASTR 500 (graduate) are a 1-credit seminar class that meets every week at 12:05. The course may be repeated for credit. Junior and senior astro majors and all astro graduate students should sign up for this class each semester.

Speakers include experts from around the world who come to Rice to discuss their research. Rice faculty, graduate students and undergraduates also participate by giving talks, the graduate students every semester and the undergrads every other semester. Student talks do not necessarily need to be on their own research. Full-hour talks should be 45 minutes in length, and half-hour talks 20 minutes, with 5 minutes for questions. We must vacate the room before 1 pm, so please be on time. It is up to the speakers to ensure that their talks display properly, so please check your presentation ahead of time. Abstracts should be provided to the instructor no later than Friday morning before the talk so notices can be distributed.

Overall Course Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes: The goal of this course is to give students experience in giving and evaluating oral presentations on current astronomical research. By the end of the course students will be able to evaluate whether a talk is clearly organized and accessible. Graduate students will gain experience in giving an oral presentation and over the course of the full year, udergraduate students will gain this same experience. Students will be exposed to a range of current astronomical research topics and gain an appreciation for the research being done in the department.

Grading: Pass/fail. At least 80% attendance is required to pass, and students must present a talk as described above.

Feedback: Students who work with a faculty member should get feedback on their talks from their advisers. The instructor will be available to provide feedback to all other students and answer any questions about the seminar immediately after the talks.

Disability Information: Students with a documented disability that impacts their work in this class should contact me to discuss their needs. Disabled students should also register with the Disability Support Services Office in the Ley Student Center.

DATE	SPEAKER(S)	TITLE
Jan 14	Patrick Hartigan	Organizational Meeting
Jan 21	Christopher Johns-Krull	PTFO8-8695: A Two M-Yr Old Evaporating Hot Jupiter
Jan 28	Ian Loya	Does the worsening galactic cosmic radiation environment observed by CRaTER preclude future manned deep space exploration?
	Pat Hartigan	A New Look at the Carina Nebula
Feb 4	Dr. Warren Skidmore [TMT]	Plans for a new optical/IR 30-m Telescope
Feb 11	Dick Shaw [NOAO]	Summary of Status of the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope
Feb 18	Wen Fu	Kozai Oscillations in Hydrodynamic Disks
	Edison Liang	Relativistic Shear Flows and Gamma Ray Bursts
Feb 25	Lynnie Saade	Black Holes and Microquasars
	Andy Liao	Experiments of supersonic magnetized flows
Mar 4	**RECESS**	
Mar 11	Josh Jones	Paper on Exoplanets
	Swetha Sridhar	Lagrangian Coordinate Systems in SPH codes
Mar 18	Dr. Lorin Matthews [Baylor]	TBD
Mar 25	Eric Weaver	Radiative Transport in Protostellar Disks
	Sal Tijerina	Modeling of Planet Formation in the Early Solar System
Apr 1	Joe Barchas	Comptomized Clouds in Magnetars
	Parisa R. Sheikhyousefi	Gamma Ray and AGN Research Results
Apr 8	Kim-Vy Tran [Texas A&M]	TBD
Apr 15	Sarah Frazier	Exoplanet Research

	Matthew Baring	Gamma-Ray Absorption in Pulsars
Apr 22	Federico Fiuza (LLNL)	PIC Simulations and Experiments of Collisionless Shocks

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